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INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN SYRIA

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INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN SYRIA

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The role of industry in the underdeveloped countries is considered as a major factor in attenuating the consequence of economical fluctuations and in achieving a continuous and sound growth of national income.

The Syrian Arab Republic suffered and still suffers from economic crises due to the instability of its national volume income, which still and to a large extent, is dependable on the natural conditions. If the yield of crops is good, then the national income of the country is high, and the great majority of the people will find themselves with more income to spend, which will increase the volume of demand of all types of goods, and that will create a better opportunities for small local enterprises to grow and finally the national economy will be prosperous and an actual development will be achieved.

The development of industry on a scientific basis cannot be done in a spontaneous way, otherwise a development thus arrived at, would be but provisionally unable to modify either the structure of the national economy or to give this structure any immunity against internal and external economical fluctuations, therefore it is very helpful to study the most important factors which affect the industrial development, that have direct influence and important role on the development of the national economy.

The main factors that form the axis of our study are :
Labour, Labour skills, Capital, Management, Marketing.

Labour :

Although the number of workers needed is sufficient, their technical skill is still below average, therefore, we think it is not preferable to have automatized industries, because automatized machines need prompt and high level of maintenance and skilled technicians to run them, besides such industries will not help much in solving the problem of unemployment which is considered as an essential problem in the (under - developed) countries.

Some under - developed countries have already aimed at a complete automatized industrial development, but they failed in attaining their goals, and their economy fell, because a great part of their riches was uninvested and frozen.

If we consider the ordinary industrialization that suits the social structure of (under developed) countries find that they need skilled labour at the first stage of a planned industrial development because most of the workers belong to the agricultural sector, and are alien to the requirements of industry. They are in need of a training that would qualify them to work in this sector. The Arab Syrian Republic has treated the matter by establishing

vocational training centers , and .. this projects is now being executed . It involves the establishment of two centers , one in Damascus and the other in Aleppo . . . Each is composed of five sections for the different crafts and industries needed by the country. It is expected that one thousand workers nearly would be graduated yearly .

Labour Skills :

The skilled worker forms an important element necessary to ensure a progressive production and to improve it . Although the Syrian worker is a def and strict one , nevertheless he has to be trained and to get the qualification necessary for the high level demanded by the industries which have begun to be established in the country since the middle of this twentieth century , The scope of this will not be confined only to train the worker to run machines , that is easy to obtain , but the real skill the worker is in need of is what would ensure a productive harmony among the workers of one group , then among workers that belong to the groups of a section , then among the sections of one project , then among workers that belong to complementary projects , then among the workers of the whole industrial sector , and at last harmony among the workers of all sectors of the country

Capital :

It is one of the most important factors for development , and needs some political , social , and economical conditions to play its full constructive part. Stability , the performance of a project within the appointed time , social , justice , economical relations technical capacity and finally industrial legislation , could make the capital confident and ready to be invested without hesitation or fear.

On the other hand , organizing the financial market , beside what we already said , will facilitate the gathering of the savings of the individuals and make it easier to be invested in projects which stimulate rapid economic development .

Management :

Industrial management is a technique lacking in the industrially under - developed countries . It is the main axle and the efficient element necessary for the successful achievement of industrial development . For each project requires a special scheme capable of ensuring a harmony among the principal elements of production, so that the work may go on in the best conditions possible especially most of the projects contain different groups of workers that necessitate the existence of a kind of mutual understanding and cooperation in order to form an integral mass where consent and harmony prevail . It is possible to make up for this deficiency by the establishment of an institute for high management where lessons and lectures will be delivered on the technique of management and on the organization of projects , and where may be analyzed the up - to - date scientific theories about the technique of management and the necessary conditions demanded by the economical and social structure of the country .

Marketing :

Marketing has principles and methods that involve according to the international economical relations and to the kind of understanding prevailing in those relations . The skill in this field consists of ensuring constant external and internal markets to

prevent the accumulation of abnormal stock in production , on the one side , and to ensure the sale of the growing production on the other side .

The weakness of the economically underdeveloped country is seen here in this field with its fullest meaning . The economical and social history of each country subordinated to a single country or to an economy dominating it , shows the effect of this position upon its activity at the beginning of its free life , for it has but one traditional market to the conditions of which it must be subject and also to the fluctuations of those conditions.

We think that the fulfillment of an organized growth in the Syrian Arab Republic will not take place unless the republic modifies the bases of its marketing which will become an efficient factor in ensuring an increase in its national income and not a means to dominate it .

The agricultural income is not stable as to its kind and volume and follows the natural fluctuations . Therefore it is necessary to find external markets which will play the role of regulation as to increase and decrease , and as to the balance of industrial products. Now , we can summarize the stimulating means of marketing and the sale of products as follow:

- a. Development of internal market by a constant effort to increase the purchasing power of different groups of people , especially that of the peasants who form in the under-developed countries a ratio that may go sometimes as far as 80 % of the total of the population , this to be arrived at by improving the means of the agricultural production in order to increase the yield of crops that will in turn increase the income of the peasant who , consequently , will become able to buy his needs of industrial products.

And so the internal consumption will become more active and will absorb big quantity of growing industrial production and discharge some of the general stock when happening .

- b. Establishment of an Arab common market that will begin by loosening the commercial restrictions between the participant Arab countries and by decreasing gradually the custom tariffs and organising the industrial policy between them , and will finally arrive at creating a complete economical union , one that is similar to the European common market.

The Regional Centralization of Industries:

The Syrian Arab Republic is now suffering a regional centralization in its industry , because its greatest and most important industries are placed in Damascus and Aleppo , Homs has already begun competing with those two cities , exploiting its geographical situation in the middle of the country , after having established the petrol refinery and a nitrogen fertilizers plant in addition to some other great plants to be established.

The causes of this centralization are attributed to the availability of capital , employees , technicians , communications , public services and other facilities more than the other cities and districts in Syria.

To suppress this centralization and to revive all the districts without differentiating between a far-away district and a nearby one, the scheme of development should be based upon the establishment of industries and special projects in every district according to its situation and possibilities, and necessary laws should be issued in order to allow tempting exemptions for long periods to the owners of projects in the far districts:

For ex. (exemption from income tax for five years to every one who will execute a project in one of the districts of DARA , SOUAIDA , Hamma and for eight years to those who execute a project in one of the districts of El Rachid , Dair Elzor , Al Hassaka , ...)

Raw materials necessary to industrial buildings must be exempted from customs tax in an effective way and raw materials necessary to the production must also be exempted from customs tax or at least the tax must be reduced as low as possible, especially when local industrial products are to be exported.

We add to the above the necessity of improving the roads of communication and of ensuring the public services in all the districts in which it is planned to establish certain industries.

Special operational problems :

These problems could be summarized as follow :

- a. Lack of technical studies on the types and kinds of machines and equipment to ensure the selection of the best kinds needed both, from the technical and economical point of view.
- b. Poor maintenance of machines and equipment which gives way to up normal defects and premature exploitation .

To overcome those difficulties, we think it is necessary to run training courses by the firms that produce the machines in order to train workers on how to : use, maintain and repair them ; and in order to know their technical characteristics and their capacities . Or otherwise these firms may send a specialist of their own to supervise the working and maintenance and installing, and operating such machines.

Climatic conditions :

The climate in the Syrian Arab Republic does not represent a fundamental problem for its industries, and it was possible to overcome certain secondary problems concerning some industries that require a special and relative degree of humidity, by the use of air - conditioning and other technical and modern means.

Specifications and standards:

There are now aday. some essential difficulties that impede the fixing of technical specifications for all the industrial products. first comes the inexistence of an industrial laboratory, second comes the great number of various products and the variety of tastes, all of them necessitating technical and scientific studies required for

the fixing of technical specifications and the elaboration of a standardization for the different industrial products , in order to be in touch with the international process of production . The Ministry of Industry proceeds now an agreement with the cocerned departments of the United Nations and collaborating with them, to the establishment of a modern industrial laboratory necessary for the purpose .

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